THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No formal proposal from the Government of Orissa has been received, for declaring Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary as a project tiger reserve.

(b) Does not arise.

Environment Day

1915. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hyderabad has come forward to host the Environment Day celebrations in June, 2004;

(b) whether Government have informed this to the Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Forest Clearance for lower Subansiri Dam Project

1916. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that final forest clearance for lower Subansiri Dam Project is yet to be granted to NHPC despite all requisite formalities are completed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that diversion of 245 ha. of quarry area recommended by Government of Assam is yet to be cleared to NHPC to resume commissioning of the said project;

(c) if so, by when it will be cleared;

(d) whether construction of a park at Dam site is logical than the provision of flood protection measure downstream; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have already issued "in principle" forestry clearance on 10th June 2003, for diversion of 3999.3 ha of forest land for lower Subansiri Hydro Electric Project. The final clearance has not been issued as the matter is *subjudice*.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As stated above the matter is *subjudice*.

(d) Construction of any park at the Dam site has not been proposed in the project.

(e) Does not arise.

National forest area in Maharashtra

1917. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any notified forest area in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so the complete details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to preserve the forest area in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the notified forest area in Maharashtra are as under:

Reserved forest	49196 sq. kms
Protected forest	8210 sq. kms
Unclassed forest	3631 sq. kms
Zudpi jungle	879 sq. kms
Total forest area:	61916 sq. kms

(c) and (d) The important measures undertaken by Government to preserve the forest area in Maharashtra are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by the State Government from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.